

Minutes
Town of Acton Community Preservation Committee
February 25, 2016
Acton Memorial Library

Members Present: Peter Ashton (Chair), Peter Berry, Jeff Clymer, Walter Foster, Susan Mitchell-Hardt, Ken Sghia-Hughes, Joe Will (Clerk)

Others Present: Roland Bartl (Acton Planning Director), Robert Hummel (Acton Assistant Planner), Roland Bourdon (Finance Committee observer), Tom Tidman (Acton Director of Natural Resources)

Peter A opened the meeting at 7:34 P.M.

I. Executive Session for purpose of discussing a potential land acquisition at 176 Central Street.

- It was moved, seconded, and voted unanimously by roll call at 7:35 P.M. to go into Executive Session. The “Others Present” listed above were invited to join the Executive Session. Open Session resumed at 8:30 P.M.

Upon return to Open Session:

- It was moved (Peter B), seconded, and voted unanimously that the CPC approve committing \$400K of CPA funds towards the purchase of the 176 Central Street parcel of land. Conservation Restriction (CR) stewardship should be part of this amount and part of the Warrant Article.

II. Citizen Concerns

- None.

III. Minutes of February 11, 2016

- It was moved, seconded, and voted unanimously to approve the minutes as presented. Note: Jeff left the meeting at this point. A quorum of six remained.

IV. 2016 Project Proposals – Final Deliberations

- Confirmed: One-year funding for \$23,488 of the Regional Housing Services Office.
- On Wright Hill debt service: Steve Barrett thought the actual amount could be considerably less than \$70K. The \$ turned back from the Wright Hill Association has not yet been taken into account.
- At Town Meeting, the use of \$400K of CPA funds to help with a purchase of the 176 Central Street parcel should not be part of the 2016 grants. It should be its own article as this land purchase was not a project applied for this year and requires 2/3rds vote. The \$400K set-aside should still be one of the 2016 grants up for approval this year.
- The \$20K awarded for “Open Space Acquisition and Preservation” is for pre-purchase activities only, not post-purchase activities, like CR. Adjust the wording in its “Project” cell in the 2016 Awards worksheet.
- It was moved, seconded, and voted unanimously to approve for recommendation at Town Meeting the appropriations schedule as updated at this meeting.

V. Review Draft Warrant Article

- The CPC reviewed the draft of the Warrant Article and recommended some changes.
- It was moved, seconded, and voted unanimously to accept the CPC Warrant Article as presented and updated in draft form at this meeting while furthermore granting Town Planning staff reasonable discretion to “clean it up” editorially.

VI. Town Meeting Preparation

- Peter A described his presentation of CPC grants to the Finance Committee earlier this week. His presentation barely mentioned familiar projects, but focused instead on projects that were uniquely unfamiliar. He said that he was inclined to go with that presentation at Town Meeting, but is now thinking instead to give a quick overview of all the projects so as to diminish any focus on church projects. The Committee viewed and commented on Peter’s PowerPoint presentation.

VII. Project Reports and Updates

- Per Walter: Peter B gave a very nice and thorough presentation to the Board of Selectmen of the CPA Study Committee’s findings. Peter A called the report “excellent.” Selectman Katie Green reportedly suggested that the Study Committee do outreach to various constituents in Town to generate support for the recommendation of raising the CPA surcharge to 3%.
- Per Roland: The state has received 5 or 6 construction bids for the Assabet River Rail Trail (ARRT), ranging from \$6.7M to \$10M. The budget that went out amounted to \$7-8M. The state picks the construction winner. For both the ARRT and the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (BFRT), there are blogs (find them by clicking on “Manager’s Blog” on the Town website) that Acton updates as it hears new things, most notably information from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation ARRT and BFRT supervisors.

VIII. Administrative updates

- There is no scheduled CPC meeting before Town Meeting on April 4. If there is urgent need for a meeting, Peter A will call it.

9:23 P.M. It was moved, seconded, and voted unanimously to adjourn.